

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001

CPYRGHT

Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

BOISE, IDAHO
STATESMAN *inli*

M-37,726

S-46,393

MAY 21 1967

Letters to Statesman Editor

Recipients of CIA Funds Termed Lacking Anti-Communist Sentiment

CPYRGHT

Editor, The Statesman:

The NSA-CIA expose seems to have created quite a furore, most of it misdirected. Surely no one will deny the need for such an agency or its right to hire individuals for gathering intelligence information. However, what should shock Americans is the selection of questionable individuals and subsidization of entire organizations for the job. NSA's record is anything but one of pro-American activities, and the National Council of Churches, another recipient of CIA funds, is hardly "anti-Communist."

Now we learn that the Reuther brothers, Victor and Walter, through AUI, have benefited from CIA funds to the tune of \$50,000 to "combat communism" abroad. Now the Reuthers have never considered communism to be much of a threat; in fact they have never been able to completely disclaim the letter they purportedly wrote "Mel" a number of years ago, in which they urged him to "keep up the good work for a Soviet America."

And how can one be against communism if one is against all those who oppose communism, as witness the December 19, 1961 Reuther Memorandum to the Attorney General of the United States? Therein author Victor outlined a vicious program to destroy the anti-Communist or "right-wing" movement in America, with no comparable suggestion for dealing with Communist or left-wing extremism. The memorandum argued that

the "domestic Communist menace has always been maximized;" and that "Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley, who continues in charge of internal security matters, has always maximized the domestic Communist threat." (Of course, who should be best informed in the area, the FBI and the attorney general, or the brothers Reuther? And it is the Reuther adherents who pin the label of "right-winger," and "anti-government" on their opposition). So it does seem odd that the Reuthers should be selected as recipients of taxpayer funds to "oppose communism!"

Perhaps the USIA (United States Information Agency) is as confused about what it takes to oppose communism, as is the CIA. In a recent brochure received from that office selling its Voice of America series and a variety of other services, appears a picture of the Negro poet Langston Hughes (author of the infamous poem Goodbye Christ), with this caption above it: "Soviet poet Yevtushenko is a member of audience listening to American writer Langston Hughes at USIS in Dakar, Senegal." An identified Communist, Hughes has been affiliated with more than 70 "fronts" and wrote the song Put Another S In the USA for the eighth convention of the Communist party.

It would appear the CIA and the USIA follow a policy of hiring the arsonist to put out the fires. — TERESSA D. HENDRY, Jerome.